

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method for executing on a computer a security critical activity having at least one action, the security critical activity being initiated by a user of the computer and executed by a security device connected to [[a]] the computer with user involvement, the method comprising the steps of:

the user of the computer defining in a proxy letter a situation in which the proxy letter is allowed to handle [[a]] the security critical activity;

starting execution of an action of [[a]] the security critical activity in a present situation;

determining, for the started action and the present situation and based on the proxy letter, whether (a) the proxy letter is allowed to handle the started action without direct user involvement or (b) ~~direct the user involvement~~ is required to handle the started action;

when the started action is handled by the proxy letter or by ~~direct the user involvement~~, completing the started action and repeating the starting execution and determining steps for

each action in the security critical activity until each action in the security critical activity has been completed; and

when started action is handled neither by the proxy letter nor by ~~direct~~ the user involvement, stopping execution of the security critical activity.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the defining step includes the step of defining in the proxy letter situations in which the proxy letter is allowed to grant an action.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the defining step includes the step of defining in the proxy letter situations in which the proxy letter is allowed to prevent an action from being executed.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the steps of determining whether the proxy letter is allowed to prevent an action from being executed and stopping execution of the action when the action is one the proxy letter is allowed to prevent from being executed.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the determining step includes the steps of reading the proxy letter and requesting direct user involvement if the proxy letter is not allowed to handle the started action.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, following the step of requesting direct user involvement, further

comprising the steps of waiting a predetermined period of time and, when direct user involvement has not occurred within the predetermined period of time, stopping execution of the security critical activity.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of completing the started action comprises the step of logging whether the proxy letter or ~~direct~~ the user ~~involvement~~ handled the action.

17. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the security critical activity includes a money transaction and wherein the defining step provides that the proxy letter is allowed to handle the started action without direct user involvement when an amount of money in the transaction does not exceed a predetermined amount and that the user is required to handle the started action when the amount of money in the transaction exceeds the predetermined amount.

18. (new) A method for executing on a computer a security critical activity having at least one action, the security critical activity being initiated by a user of the computer and executed by a security device connected to the computer, the method comprising the steps of:

operating the computer in a secure management mode in which permission of the user of the computer is required before performing each action of the security critical activity;

the user of the computer defining in the computer a first group of situations and a second group of situations, the first group being situations in which the user's permission to perform each action in the security critical activity is granted automatically without further involvement of the user, and the second group being situations in which the user's permission to perform each action in the security critical activity is not granted automatically and must be obtained prior to performing each action of the security critical activity;

when performing the security critical activity, determining which one of the first and second groups of situations is applicable;

completing the security critical activity by performing each action when the first group of situations is applicable, and completing the security critical activity by performing each action when the second group of situations is applicable and the user of the computer grants permission for each action to be performed; and

not completing the security critical activity when the second group of situations is applicable and the user of the computer does not grant permission for an action of the security critical activity to be performed.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the security critical activity includes a money transaction and wherein the

first group of situations includes money transactions that do not exceed a predetermined amount of money and the second group of situations includes money transactions that exceed the predetermined amount of money.